

LENT: A Time to Give Up “STUFF”

*“And when you fast do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting.
Matthew 6:18*

Dear Friends,

We are just five days into this 40-day season of penitence and fasting and already I am having withdrawal pains since I have ‘given up’ Pepsis for Lent. Every year folks ask do “we give up something or take on something?”

I don’t know about you all, but I like my STUFF and I enjoy shopping for all KINDS of STUFF. Wednesday afternoon, on ASH WEDNESDAY, I was standing in Mary Scott’s yard looking at the STUFF the firemen were bringing out of her 100-year-old house after a fire did major damage. That STUFF represented generations of her family’s life here in the village and I suspect each item brings with it a memory. Hopefully the house can be rebuilt but my prayer is that many of those items that mean so much to Mary and her family, that are now covered in soot and have been singed or burnt, can be cleaned and restored.

Having gone through retirement and given away so much of our STUFF as we downsized and have spent two years in transition, I understand how precious our STUFF can be. When people say, “Well it’s just STUFF”.....that may be true, but... I know when Jesus said to take up our crosses and follow him, he meant we needed to get our priorities straight; He comes first. My calling as his disciple is to grow his church and follow his commands and I want to do that, but I also know that we are called to enjoy this life and many of the things others would call STUFF, are the things which bring us joy!

So, I will give up Pepsi for 40 days, and I will take on some spiritual disciplines during Lent, but I will also offer a special prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude for the STUFF that brings me joy.

It’s a JOY to be your pastor!
Mike

Upcoming EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb 21st...Lenten study and covered dish supper, 6:00

Saturday, Feb 24th.....Church Oyster Roast at Lee and Karen McClellan’s 4:00

Saturday, March 16... church work day 8:30am

Saturday, March 23... Water Missions walk for water